

1889

Weymouth Sept.

Dear Mr. McRae,

I have not
seen your letter, (which ex-
presses exactly my own feelings,)
the best thought I am ca-
pable of.

Mr. Johnson's practical
good sense in the conduct of the
cause, his experience in the
ecclesiastical, or rather, congregational
ized-Presbyterian aspects of it,
his knowledge of certain points of

its history, & his real ability
to discern all ~~wishes~~ ~~within~~ his
own heat, are indispensable
& invaluable to us. In fact
his value is freatly increased
by Mr. Gay's resignation,
(however the Paper loses thereby
in good taste) for now
co-operation with the Standard
and becomes practicable from
all proper quarters; which, owing
either to a real or supposed dis-
trust on the part of Mr. Gay
was not so before.

There is no one, in short
with whom I can work with
more ease and satisfaction, &
so, as well as I can observe,
it is also with others.

In addition to his good temper & good sense, he has, too the very rare & most highly honorable quality of not making a personal matter of political or financial necessities.

In considering the general principles under which his case would be classed & whether in the light of our financial means & prospects, your own moral obligations as an Ex. Comm. or our past practice - (i.e. in the light of possibility, duty, & authority of expense,) I & I cannot see that we

have ever felt pecuniarily
justified or morally bound to
assume the burdens of any
man's destiny. If we once
began to calculate a man's
losses, for indemnification,
or his claims for support in
age, I know not where to
stop. In fact I know not
where to begin. So many are
they whose prospects in life
have been broken up, &
who are languishing at
insufficient means of liveli-
hood, because they lost the
use for one life time in taking
it for the Centuries' well

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being. We have never, as a Society been justified in proportioning Salaries to the value of services received. Herein is the flaw of the cause - when each man gives his service, & salary is but just the sum that enables him to do so.

Our present financial condition is not for the present year, a promising one. The Shoe-making & other trades on which many of our contributions depend, are undergoing a ^{a great} ~~great~~ collapse. Mr. Stone's ^{beginning} will probably be a check on

donations, for without receiving
a cent from that as a
Society. We are supposed to
be \$8000 per annum the
sum for it. If by any
chance it should in even
so small measure benefit the
Society, the feelings of the trus-
tees would not allow them
to set aside Mr. Honey's
known desire to get rid of
Mr Johnson. He did not
know him - he appreciated
but one way of serving the
cause, & that way not Mr. John-
son - he always considered the
Standard itself as unnecessary.
had not, in short, the

highest idea of the power -
generating uses of organiza-
tion & association, except in
the dry-goods business, where
he comprehended it thoroughly.
So I do not suppose, in
any possible event, that
Hovey's bequest would enable us
to enlarge any additional
salary whatever at New-
York, even if all our
Committees were in any
own state of mind about
the matter - Which they are
not. I am sure that far
vision is, (only more so -) but
further I know too little
to say more particularly
Garrison's State of mind

Subdivided, so does Mr Phil-
lips' - so does Mr Jackson's,
in the matter of paper &
Editor; - some sustaining
the last for the first - some
the first for the last. But,
probably I am the one most
impressed with the necessity of
a sort of National Co-operation
3rd term, which can be directed
to specific points at need
with the impetus of a body.
Let me burst into Ballad
if you please: - We have
now reorganized the Staff ^{for which the standard is in the second part}
enterprise. When it were good
to have
"The even trench - the bristling moon
"The Legion's ordered lines."

And it is a pity the advantage is so little realized. But it is by no means to be wondered at, of the general warfare of opening skirmish have unfeated many for a more disciplined method. All must do as they can. It took one life-time to make individuals enough to constitute a movement - probably it must take another to teach them that good-fellowship is a quality as well as black, & that to know how to obey is as good as to know how to command, & that only they that can do the former are fit for the latter.

But I am de-

grossing too far.
Though in no light
in which I can place it,
do I feel authorised, as one of
the Ex. Com. to vote increase
of salary which I should
readily submit to see others
voting, yet it does appear to me
as a member of the Society
that there is a way by which
the funds of persons deeply
~~told~~
interested for ^{other} ~~them~~ fellow-
Labourers whom they wish
to see in easier circumstances
can be met. Could not the
Society receive special donations
for the behoof of any such
fund? I remember ^{that at the time of the} Mrs. ^{famous} ~~former~~ crisis

Not wrote to us the occasion
of the contemplated dismission of
one of the 8 doctors — (Mr. Johnson
as the latest comes being deter-
mined on) that the step would
make a division among
friends of Mr. Johnson in the
west & elsewhere. Now why
are not there the very funds
to pick up two or three hundred
dollars among themselves, &
forward it with an expres-
sion of respect & confidence,
~~to the Secy.~~ to the
treasurer, & desire him
to bring it before the Ex-
com. for the add'd ex-
pression of their satisfaction
also? I think a ma-

forty of us would pass
such a resolution. Those
who do not see the use
of the Standard, do appreciate
Mr Johnson while those
that uphold the Standard
would not probably oppose
such a resolution. There does
exist a feeling of desire to
find another Editor. It is
a feeling I do not now
share; so competent has
Mr. Johnson shown him-
self since he has been chief;
& unless, indeed, the Phoenix
for \$500. Mr. Cunning could be
found, I do not desire a change.
If the work becomes too heavy,

~~It~~ Should you give a subscription
in addition.

Let me know what
you think, — "How it feels
to thee," — as to whether
this suggestion of special
donation to Ex. Com appro-
bation would compass the end
of giving additional moral &
pecuniary support to Mr.
Johnson, without establishing
any a precedent which might
tend to ~~divide~~ the support
of abolitionists in place of
the abolition of slavery?

In any event,
I am entirely at your
disposition to bring the mat-

in any shape you
dint, before the St. Com.
In case you had rather
do it through me than
by letter.

We are busy with
finishing the petitioning.
If four years ago when
the measure was first started,
Mr. Foster & Mr. Pillsbury
could have seen there was
clear to fall to work in-
stead of talking on after the
time had past, on the merits
of free meat, free platform
(every thing but free condiment)

They would have saved themselves a deal of mortification. But I do not blame them. I simply do not admire. They could only do as they really thought best. But it was the measure of their ability to leave the cause at that time. They are not changed (perhaps a little more Jonah & Jeremiah-like - a tittle more sweepingly forsooth) - but that no matter in such a nation as this, in fronts of taste, tho' it ~~is~~ is now a hindrance in fronts of facts) - but the times are changed. They pushed: they did well: but now they will do better to pay

27. I wish, in short, they
could adapt themselves to the
circumstances; - take advantage
of them, profit by them, that
is. But I dare say they
will see clearer in time.

Howland is in thick darkness.
I judge by him a little
as to the state of mind of
others. It would be fair to do so really. He
enclose you a specimen of good conduct
in the shape of a letter I rec'd.
by a late steamer. Please
to return it as soon as ready
by Mail. If we all had
grace to behave like that!

Your obliged friend

J.W. Chapman